CENTER FOR WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH
The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Center for Research in Women's Health
University-Wide Interdisciplinary Research Center
2026 Women's Health Pilot Research Projects
Request for Applications (RFA)

PURPOSE: One of the goals of the UAB Center for Research in Women's Health (CRWH) is to foster interdisciplinary research collaborations to improve women's health across the lifespan. We also aim to foster development of scholars whose research is intended to improve health and birth outcomes among persons who reside in urban/rural Alabama or in global settings.

To accomplish these goals, the CRWH invests in local UAB investigators and trainees and their affiliated divisions, departments and schools. One example of this investment in continued excellence in women's health research at UAB is with pilot grant funding. CRWH research pilot funds are intended to support high quality and impactful women's health research that generates preliminary data for future NIH/extramural grant applications. Interdisciplinary collaborations are strongly encouraged.

DURATION OF FUNDING: 12-24 months
RANGE OF REQUESTED FUNDS: up to $50,000 (CRWH encourages co-funding from other UAB centers and/or departments but co-funding is not required)
NUMBER OF AWARDS: 1-2 or more
TIMELINE:

- RFA Released: March 2, 2026
- Application Deadline: April 15, 2026 (midnight CT)
- Awards Announced: June 1, 2026
- Earliest Funding Start: June 1, 2026

ELIGIBILITY: The principal investigator (PI) of the application must be a UAB faculty member or fellow in any division or department working towards an identified NIH or similar grant project. Co-investigators are not required to be UAB faculty, and fellows should work with faculty to obtain funding. The potential research topics can include basic science, translational science or clinical research questions, but must focus on **women's health across the lifespan**. Funds can only be used for actual research project costs, (i.e., statistician/nurse effort, patient reimbursement, lab supplies, advertising, etc.) and not tuition or training. Use of CRWH resources when available (analysts, programmers, research nurses or coordinators, etc.), is strongly encouraged. Salary support for faculty is NOT allowed.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS: Submit the following components via "InfoReady-UAB Office of Research Application Portal" [https://uab.infoready4.com/#] prior to the application deadline at midnight (Central Time) on February 25, 2025.

1. Cover Page: Include title of project, Principal Investigator's name, title, department, phone number and e-mail address; names, titles and department affiliations of any co-investigators.
2. Letter of Support: Letter from division director or department chair affirming support for the proposal and co-funding if applicable.
3. Specific Aims: Up to one page overview of the proposal that outlines significance, innovation, aims, and future funding plans, including NIH/extramural
4. Project Proposal: Up to four (4) single-spaced pages, 11-point Arial font, ½-inch margins. See **CRITICAL ELEMENTS** section below.
5. Budget: Include the categories of materials and supplies, equipment, and other activities and services needed to complete the project.

6. Budget Justification: Justify the amounts requested for each category and explain what the funds will accomplish.
7. Biosketch: Follow the NIH biosketch format for PI and key co-investigators.
8. Submit a single PDF file with application components in the order outlined above.

CRITICAL ELEMENTS THE PROJECT STRATEGY SHOULD INCLUDE (4 pages total):

Significance and Innovation. Provide an overview of the topic relevant to the specific aim(s) to demonstrate the public health significance and the need for this project. Describe how the project is likely to innovate health care.

Approach. Summarize the methodology/activities, data collection plans, and the timeframe that is proposed to address the specific aims.

Transformational Impact. Briefly describe the potential transformational impact of achieving these goals. Indicate how results will be used to enhance future research and to support NIH grant proposals. Provide specific benchmarks to evaluate progress and success.

Preliminary or Related Findings and Environment. Describe current and past efforts that are relevant to this project. Describe any already available resources such as institutional funds or support from co-investigators. Preliminary findings are encouraged but not required.

Investigators and Project Team. Briefly describe the expertise of investigators and how they will interact to achieve the goals of the project and future funding (attach NIH biosketch, not counted towards page limits).

Biosketches. All applicants and collaborators should submit NIH biographical sketches (5-page limit) with personal statements adapted to describe defined roles on the project. Use the NIH biographical sketch form approved for use on/after January 25, 2026. The form, instructions, and sample biographical sketches are available at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm

REVIEW PROCEDURES: Applications will be reviewed by investigators with relevant expertise within or outside the UAB community. The evaluation will follow a scale 1-9 (similar to NIH) to assess Significance and Innovation (including targets for future funding), Approach, Impact, Preliminary or Related Findings (including resources and feasibility), Investigators and Project Team (including involvement of trainees and junior Investigators as well as community stakeholders) and Overall Impact.

FUNDS AVAILABLE: Final award decisions will be made by the CRWH leadership. It is anticipated that one or more awards totaling up to $50,000 will be awarded for this cycle based on scientific merit and promise. These awards are meant to accomplish small, concise projects that will lead to submissions for larger funded projects. Applicants should request only the budget that is reasonably needed to accomplish the stated goals.

AWARD DETAILS: Funding will be awarded from the CRWH Administrative Office. All questions regarding the awarding of funding should be directed to the contact listed in the notice of award.

- Maximum award is $50,000. Indirect costs are generally not covered but line items (e.g. IRB, communication, etc.) essential for the success of the project, should be included in the budget. Awards are one to two years in length. One no-cost extension for 6-12 months may be requested at the end of the second-year budget period only.
- All costs must conform to the NIH Grants Policy Statement (GPS) and applicable U.S. Office of Management and Budget OMB circulars for necessity and reasonability, allocability, conformance and consistency, as well as allowability. Please follow the link below to section 7.2 cost principles section of the NIH Grants Policy Statement.
- Prior to the receipt of funding for projects involving human subjects, Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval from all participating sites and human subjects training certification for all key personnel will

be required. Approvals are not required for application submission. For more information about human subjects approval, see: http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/ and http://www.uab.edu/research/administration/offices/irb/Pages/Home.aspx

POST-AWARD REQUIREMENTS: Awardees will be required to submit periodic progress reports and will receive email notification with guidance. In addition, awardees will be expected to present the details of their study at a CRWH seminar, research forum, or other meeting to be announced. This will provide an opportunity to identify additional synergies within UAB, explore other means of support, and gather recommendations to enhance the project.

CONTACT INFORMATION:
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